

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01550 311315Z

51

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-14 AID-20

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /174 W

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R 311225Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1129

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: ASAD SPEECH TO ARAB JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE

1. ON JULY 30 PRESIDENT ASAD GAVE THE FORMAL
OPENING ADDRESS TO THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE ARAB JOURNALISTS UNION. INTER
ALIA ASAD MADE THREE MAIN POINTS: (A) THE PLO REMAINS THE
ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
AND AS SUCH MUST BE CONSULTED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THAT
PEOPLE; (B) SYRIA SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
AND INDEPENDENCE OF CYPRUS AND HOPES FOR A RETURN OF
CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER TO THAT ISLAND IN THE NEAR FUTURE; AND
(C) THE ARAB PRESS HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE
"CURRENT STRUGGLE AGAINST ZIONISM AND IMPERIALISM". IN
ADDITIONAL TO THE ABOVE SPECIFIC POINTS PRESIDENT ASAD ALSO
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EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OCTOBER WAR AND OF THE

SUBSEQUENT GOLAN FIGHTING AS A CRITICAL FACTOR IN THE CURRENT ARAB SEARCH FOR "PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST." IN THIS CONNECTION IT WAS INTERESTING THAT WHEN DESCRIBING THE OCTOBER WAR HE MADE SPECIFIC MENTION OF MASSIVE ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL FROM THE U.S. DURING THAT CRUCIAL TIME. WHILE NOT EXPATIATING ON THIS THEME IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT IN EFFECT HE WAS TELLING HIS LISTENERS THAT ISRAEL WAS ONLY ABLE TO SURVIVE THE OCTOBER WAR WITH AMERICAN ASSISTANCE.

2. COMMENT: THE SPEECH WAS DELIVERED IN A MATTER OF FACT, LOW KEY MANNER AND BROKE NO NEW GROUND EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT ASAD EMPHASIZED IN CLEAR UNQUESTIONED TERMS SYRIA'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE PLO, BUT WITHOUT, HOWEVER, GOING INTO DETAILS ABOUT JUST WHAT THIS SUPPORT ENTAILS. SCOTES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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